

FEMALE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ALGERIA: A MACRO-TERRITORIAL APPROACH TO ANALYZING ENTREPRENEURIAL INTENTIONS

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Abstract: *This paper examines the spatial and structural dynamics of female entrepreneurship in Algeria using a macro-territorial analytical framework. The study relies on secondary data from the National Commercial Register (CNRC) covering the period 2007–2023, including information on business ownership, geographic location, sectoral activity, and firm characteristics. The results show that, despite a significant increase in the absolute number of female entrepreneurs, their relative share declined from 9.49% to 7.08%, reflecting persistent gender disparities. The analysis reveals a dual territorial structure: higher relative participation rates in peripheral regions, associated with necessity-driven entrepreneurship, and a concentration of female entrepreneurs in absolute terms within major urban centres, where access to resources is greater but gender gaps remain pronounced. Entrepreneurial activity is largely driven by young women aged 19–28, although recent trends indicate increased vulnerability to economic fluctuations. In addition, female leadership remains limited, with women accounting for only 6.53% of business managers, heavily concentrated in metropolitan areas. Overall, the findings highlight a spatially polarised and structurally constrained pattern of female entrepreneurship in Algeria, underscoring the need for territorially differentiated and gender-sensitive public policies to foster more inclusive economic participation.*

Keywords: *Female entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurial intentions, Regional disparities, Algeria, Territorial ecosystems, Innovation.*

JEL classifications: *L26, R11, J16, O18.*

1 INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurship is increasingly conceptualized as a fundamental driver of economic development and social transformation, contributing to productivity growth, employment generation, and innovation dynamics (Alexander, Inna, & Valentina, 2019). Its impact goes far beyond simple economics, as it constitutes a vital force for empowerment, social cohesion and broader societal change. Within this landscape, female entrepreneurship has emerged as a rapidly growing field for both researchers and policymakers, highlighting the immense potential of women to actively shape economic development. Since the 1980s, the number of women starting businesses has grown remarkably across the globe (Tahir Metaiche & Bendiabdellah, 2016), fuelling a deep academic interest in what drives this participation and what forms it takes. According to the World Bank (2020), women own only about one in three businesses globally, approximately 33 per cent, with regional maps shifting from 18 per cent in South Asia to as high as 50 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean. The ILO (2025) further notes that while women lead roughly a third of micro, small and medium enterprises in developing nations, they account for only 25 per cent of formal businesses worldwide. Moreover, the GEM (2024) points out that in most studied economies, men are still significantly more likely than women to launch a business, representing a gap of at least five percentage points in 27 per cent of these countries, including nine high-income nations. This trend is not just about changing economic structures; it represents a fundamental shift in mindsets and a redefinition of women's roles within the global workforce.

From a theoretical standpoint, entrepreneurial intention has been primarily examined through micro-level and behavioral lenses, rooted in psychological theories of individual choice. The prevailing model is the Theory of Planned Behaviour (Ajzen, 1991), which conceptualizes entrepreneurial intention as a function of three determinants: individual attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control. These models, further developed by the work of Shapero & Sokol (1982), led to various measurement tools, such as the Entrepreneurial Intention Questionnaire (Liñán & Chen, 2009), which has been validated across different cultures. While these approaches have successfully shed light on the cognitive and motivational sides of entrepreneurship, they often rely on direct surveys that are difficult to scale and do not always link

individual intent to hard economic data. In Algeria, where representative survey data is scarce, it is necessary to look beyond psychometric frameworks and find empirical indicators that can be measured at a national level. Essentially, we are moving from "stated intention" to "revealed intention", which can be observed through the actual behaviour of registering and starting a business. This is the core objective of the present study, which proposes a macroeconomic and territorial lens to measure female entrepreneurial intention by analysing registration data from the National Commercial Register (CNRC). By treating these records as a collective indicator of women's propensity to venture into business, we can observe the institutional realisation of individual will within a specific environment, aligning with the frameworks of the Global Entrepreneurship and Development Index (Ács & Szerb, 2011).

Furthermore, examining this revealed intention through a territorial prism allows us to question how effective public support systems truly are when faced with local realities. In a country like Algeria, where service and trade activities are heavily concentrated in northern urban hubs, understanding the spatial distribution of female-led startups is crucial. It helps us determine whether entrepreneurship is a choice of opportunity driven by economic density, or a response of necessity triggered by the lack of local employment options.

The real value of this approach lies in its ability to bridge the gap between behavioral and structural dimensions. By tracking the dynamics of female business registrations across different sectors, regions, and time periods, we can map the geography of female entrepreneurship in Algeria. This mapping helps identify the deep-seated spatial and structural inequalities that persist. These disparities, which reflect unequal access to resources and economic opportunities, provide a vital framework for designing more targeted, localized public policies to support women in business.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Female entrepreneurship is attracting growing interest in economic literature due to its potential to stimulate inclusive growth, reduce poverty and strengthen social cohesion. However, despite this recognition, the dynamics underlying women's entrepreneurial intention remain only partially understood. This literature review aims to address this gap by offering a critical

and contextualised reading of research on female entrepreneurial intention worldwide, particularly in developing countries, Africa and Algeria. It seeks to identify the determinants of this intention, analyse the persistent structural and cultural barriers, and highlight research paths that could enrich the understanding of this phenomenon. Generally speaking, studies show that entrepreneurial attitudes and intentions constitute a fundamental driver of economic development (Jena, 2020; Molino et al., 2018). Nevertheless, gender inequalities remain a major obstacle to women's full participation in entrepreneurial activity, and recent research highlights the decisive role of skills, learning motivation, innovation, and psychological traits that foster entrepreneurial curiosity and passion.

In developing countries, female entrepreneurs play a key role in job creation, poverty reduction and social transformation, where entrepreneurship often emerges as a path to resilience and economic autonomy in the face of insufficient formal employment. However, most of these countries are still characterised by patriarchal structures that limit women's mobility and autonomy, with the most cited constraints involving gender discrimination, difficulties in accessing credit and training, conflicts between professional and family life, and a weak institutional framework (Yadav & Unni, 2016). On the African continent, the female entrepreneurial dynamic is particularly significant, as Sub-Saharan Africa boasts the highest entrepreneurship rates in the world (GEM, 2013). This vitality is rooted in a historical tradition of female entrepreneurship, with studies showing that women contribute decisively to innovation, job creation and poverty reduction. Nonetheless, the literature on entrepreneurial intention in Africa remains limited and often descriptive, frequently neglecting the analysis of psychological and institutional determinants.

In Algeria, this dynamic unfolds within a context of ongoing economic transition, characterized by a strategic policy orientation toward the diversification of the productive base and the increased integration of women into the formal economy through targeted support mechanisms (Ait kaci azzou & Oussedik, 2024). By launching income-generating ventures, Algerian female entrepreneurs are playing a direct role in these changes, helping to tackle unemployment and reduce poverty. Nevertheless, as Ait kaci azzou & Oussedik (2024) point out, the real impact of their work depends on whether they can

navigate a tough landscape of administrative, financial and sociocultural hurdles that often threaten the long-term survival of their businesses.

Furthermore, this integration into the economy is far from uniform. Serious barriers still remain, particularly regarding access to funding, professional training and business networks, alongside social norms that continue to be quite restrictive (Ouyahia & Touil, 2023). Typically, these entrepreneurs lead small-scale, individual projects, often sparked by a mix of financial necessity and a personal drive for independence. Yet, even as their importance is increasingly acknowledged, research on the subject stays somewhat disconnected, frequently relying on narrow samples or purely qualitative methods, which makes it difficult to get a full picture of the situation (Ouadah Rebrab, 2016).

In light of these limitations, it is essential to move beyond predominantly descriptive approaches toward a more rigorous and evidence-based analysis of female entrepreneurship in Algeria. To this end, the present study mobilizes secondary data from the National Commercial Register and adopts a territorial and macroeconomic perspective to assess both the magnitude and spatial distribution of women's entrepreneurial activity. By grounding the analysis in empirical evidence, the research seeks to transcend generalizations in the literature and provide a robust basis for the design of more effective, gender-responsive public policies.

3 METHODOLOGY AND DATA SOURCES

The adopted methodological approach is based on the exploitation of secondary data, primarily sourced from the National Commercial Register (CNRC). These sources provide a robust empirical foundation for understanding the scale, structure and territorial distribution of female entrepreneurship in Algeria. The information extracted from the CNRC includes the gender of the owner or manager, geographical location at the levels of wilaya and municipality, the legal form of the business, the economic activity code (NAE), as well as registration and cancellation dates. From these variables, several synthetic indicators will be developed to measure the female entrepreneurial dynamic, including the female registration rate by wilaya and sector, female entrepreneurial density (the number of women-led businesses per 10,000 inhabitants), the growth rate of new female registrations over a given period,

and the relative share of women within the total number of registered businesses. These indicators will enable the creation of thematic maps using geomatic tools to identify areas of entrepreneurial concentration, emerging territories and regions lacking female dynamism. Consequently, this process aims to highlight regional and sectoral disparities regarding women's participation in entrepreneurial activity.

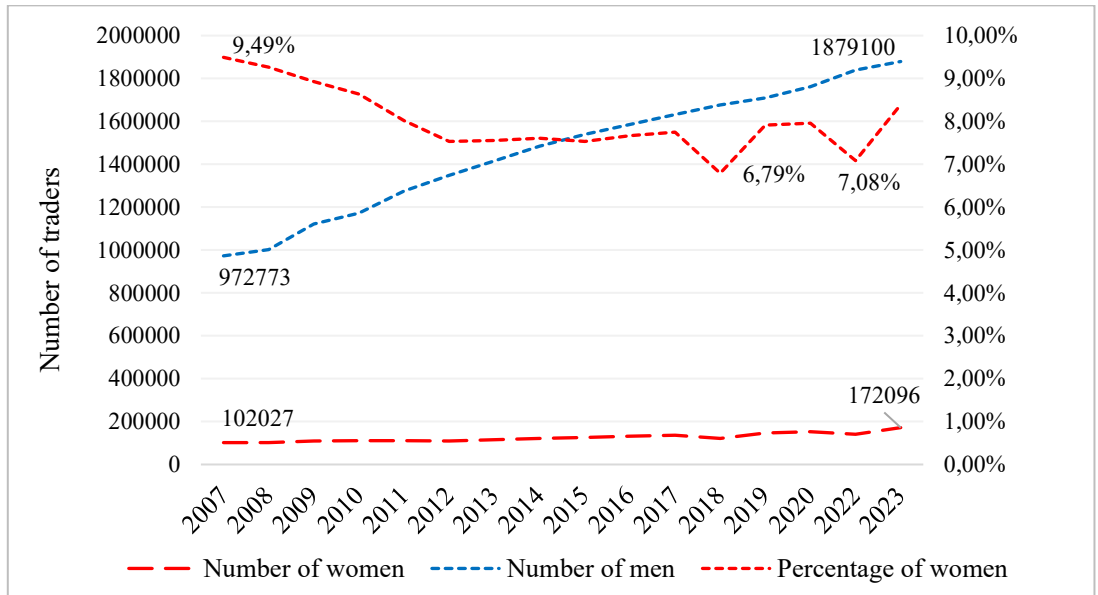
The purpose of this approach is twofold. Firstly, it seeks to indirectly measure female entrepreneurial intention through observed registration behaviours. Secondly, it aims to provide a cartographic and analytical reading of spatial inequalities in female entrepreneurship to inform public support policies for women's economic development, particularly in the areas of finance, training and entrepreneurial guidance. Thus, this macroeconomic and territorial approach to entrepreneurial intention moves beyond simple statistical observation to become a strategic diagnostic tool, contributing to a better understanding of the role of women in national economic dynamics and valuing their contribution to the territorial development of Algeria.

4 FEMALE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ALGERIA: TRENDS AND GEOGRAPHICAL CONCENTRATION

According to Figure 1, the number of male traders, represented by the dotted blue line, has increased continuously, rising from 972,773 in 2007 to 1,879,100 in 2023. The number of female traders, shown by the continuous green line, is also on the rise, albeit at a much slower pace, moving from 102,027 in 2007 to 172,096 in 2023. The percentage of women among traders, indicated by the dotted red line, reached a peak of 9.49 per cent at the beginning of the period but subsequently decreased to 6.79 per cent, before rising slightly to 7.08 per cent in 2023. This demonstrates that the female presence in the commercial sector remains low compared to men, despite a slight progression, a finding which highlights the structural limits of women's economic participation in Algeria. Despite the numerical increase, the stagnation of the feminisation rate reflects an entrepreneurship still constrained by social norms, difficulties in accessing the market and a lack of recognition for female initiatives. These results align with the analyses of Ouyahia & Touil (2023) and Ait kaci azzou & Oussedik (2024), who argue that female entrepreneurship in Algeria remains a marginal phenomenon, often hindered by the persistence of a gendered

division of labour and the absence of effective support policies. Therefore, the observed growth seems to reflect a movement of adaptation rather than a genuine structural transformation.

Figure 1: Trend in the number of traders by gender (2007-2023)

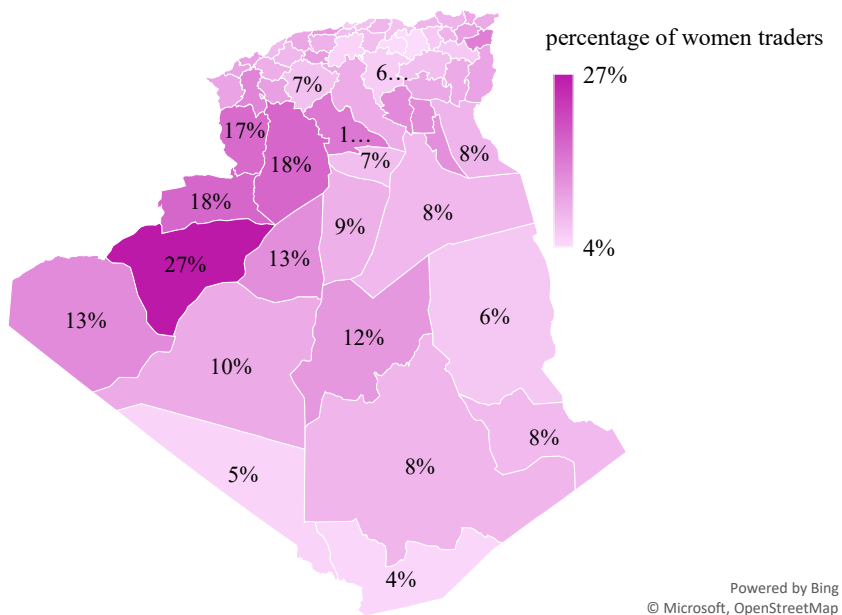


Source: (CNRC, 2007 - 2023)

The geographical distribution of female traders in Algeria reveals notable disparities in terms of both the absolute number of women and their percentage relative to men, a duality that highlights marked structural and sociocultural differences between regions. Firstly, Map 1 highlights a relatively high percentage of female traders in the High Plateaus of the West and South-West of Algeria, where certain wilayas show remarkable rates, such as Beni Abbes where 27 per cent of traders are women, followed by El Bayadh and Béchar at 18 per cent, Naama at 17 per cent, and Laghouat at 16 per cent. This map demonstrates that while the total number of female traders remains low, their proportion relative to men is comparatively high, a situation that may be explained by several factors. In more remote and less densely populated areas, the total number of traders is generally lower than in northern urban zones, meaning that even a small number of women can result in a higher relative percentage. In these regions where formal employment opportunities are scarce, women often turn to trade to meet specific local economic needs, and in some south-western wilayas, local initiatives supporting female

entrepreneurship may have encouraged women to enter the commercial sector as a means of subsistence within a challenging economic context. This territorial configuration illustrates what the literature describes as "necessity entrepreneurship" (Duberley & Carrigan, 2013; Ouadah Rebrab, 2016), frequently observed in peripheral zones where women create activities to offset the lack of wage-earning opportunities. Consequently, women in these regions develop local micro-enterprises by mobilising domestic and community resources, suggesting that the high proportion of female traders reflects a pragmatic adaptation to a constrained socio-economic environment rather than widespread economic empowerment.

Map 1: Geographical distribution of the rate of women traders.

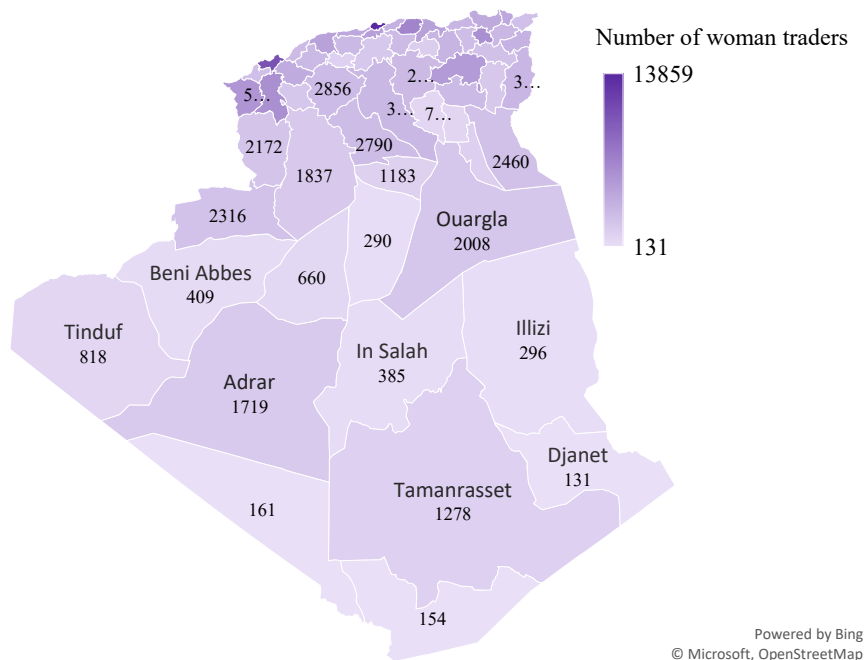


Source: (CNRC, 2007 - 2023)

Conversely, Map 2 demonstrates that the northern wilayas, particularly the major urban centres, account for the highest absolute number of female traders, even though their percentage relative to men remains low. Algiers stands out with 13,859 female traders, followed by Oran with 10,693, and then Tizi Ouzou, Constantine and Sidi Bel Abbes, each recording more than 6,000 women in trade. This contrast can be attributed to several factors, as the high population density and economic development in major Algerian cities like Algiers, Oran and Constantine create a fertile environment for a vast number

of businesses and enterprises, including those led by women. However, competition with men is also more intense in these hubs, which explains the relatively small percentage of female traders compared to the total population of entrepreneurs. Furthermore, in these urban areas, women benefit from easier access to essential resources such as finance, training and support networks, as well as a wider variety of business opportunities. While these factors attract a larger number of women to the commercial sector, they do not yet guarantee equal gender representation within the field.

Map 2 : Geographical distribution of the number of woman traders



Source: (CNRC, 2007 - 2023)

These contradictory distributions, characterised by high rates of female traders in the western and south-western High Plateaus alongside a larger absolute number in the major northern cities, highlight varied regional dynamics. While the northern wilayas benefit from a high density of female traders in absolute terms, the western and south-western High Plateaus show a more significant proportion of women within the commercial sector, suggesting that socio-economic contexts and local priorities influence female participation in trade differently across Algeria. This contrast between the urban North and the

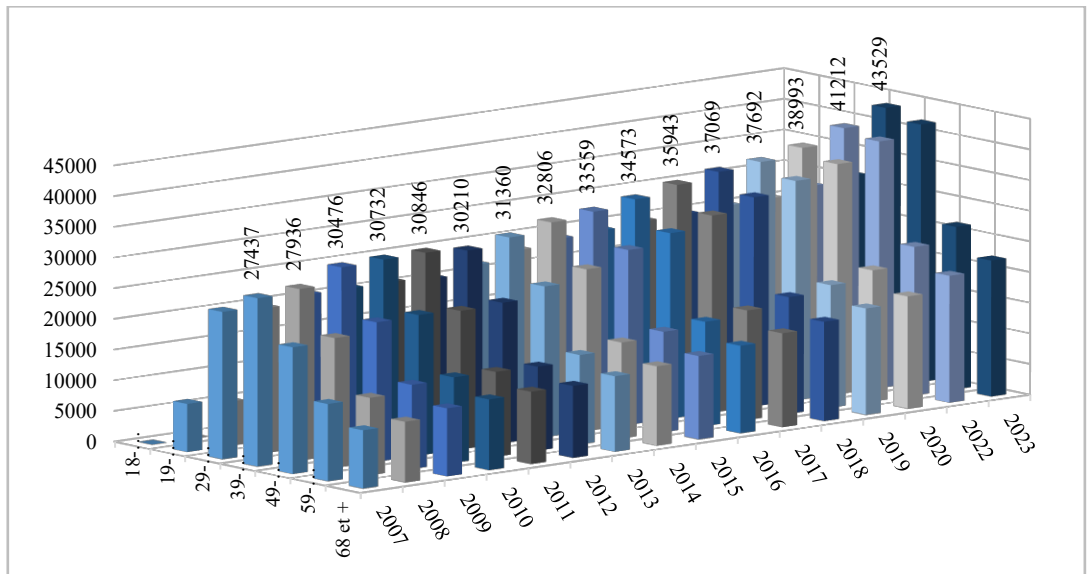
interior South reflects the duality described by Brush et al. (2018) and Kelley et al. (2017) between opportunity and necessity entrepreneurship. In large cities, women enjoy better access to resources such as finance, training and networks, yet they remain confronted by male predominance and the institutional constraints of the formal market. Consequently, urban female entrepreneurship, although more visible, remains quantitatively in the minority and is often confined to sectors traditionally perceived as "feminine", such as trade, services, beauty and textiles, which limits its potential for expansion and innovation.

Regarding the demographic profile, the evolution of the number of female entrepreneurs in Algeria by age group between 2007 and 2023, as presented in Figure 2, reveals a strong concentration of entrepreneurial activity within the 19–28 age bracket. This group has positioned itself as the primary driver of business creation by women throughout this period. Alongside this predominance, there is a growing trend among very young women, aged 18 to 19, who are engaging in entrepreneurship at the very beginning of their adult lives, signalling an early interest in vocational activity and business creation. This shift suggests a gradual transformation in the professional aspirations of the younger generation, who may increasingly view self-employment as a viable alternative to traditional wage labour within a changing economic landscape.

In parallel with this youthful dynamism, women in older age groups, specifically those aged 29 and over, show a more gradual progression in their entrepreneurial engagement. Although their rate of business creation is slower than that of their younger counterparts, this steady increase reflects a continuous and diversified involvement of women of all ages in the field of entrepreneurship, suggesting that the female entrepreneurial spirit transcends generations. However, a recent trend warrants particular attention, as after peaking around 2021, the number of female entrepreneurs aged 19 to 28 experienced a decline in 2022 and 2023. This setback, which contrasts with the general trend previously observed, raises questions regarding the underlying causes. Changing economic conditions, shifts in support policies for youth entrepreneurship, a possible saturation of certain sectors favoured by this age group, or the emergence of alternative professional opportunities could serve as explanatory factors. This recent shift highlights the need for a thorough

analysis to understand the reasons for this decline and to identify long-term support measures for female youth entrepreneurship.

Figure 2: Trend in the number of woman traders in Algeria by age group (2007-2023)



Source: (CNRC, 2007 - 2023)

These trends confirm the analyses of Minniti (2010), which suggest that young women, who are often more highly educated and socialised towards autonomy, constitute the most dynamic core of female entrepreneurship. Nevertheless, the recent decline observed may be linked to the waning of post-COVID support mechanisms, the saturation of certain urban markets, or a shift back towards more stable forms of employment. This reversal underscores the vulnerability of young female entrepreneurs to economic cycles and highlights the necessity for differentiated support that is sensitive to both gender and age. On the whole, these results reflect a female entrepreneurship in transition, rising quantitatively but remaining qualitatively unequal. They confirm that women's participation in the Algerian economy remains dependent on territorial, generational and institutional dynamics. The local context shapes the motivations, forms and viability of the businesses created by women, necessitating public policies that are adapted to regional socio-economic realities and the diverse profiles of female entrepreneurs.

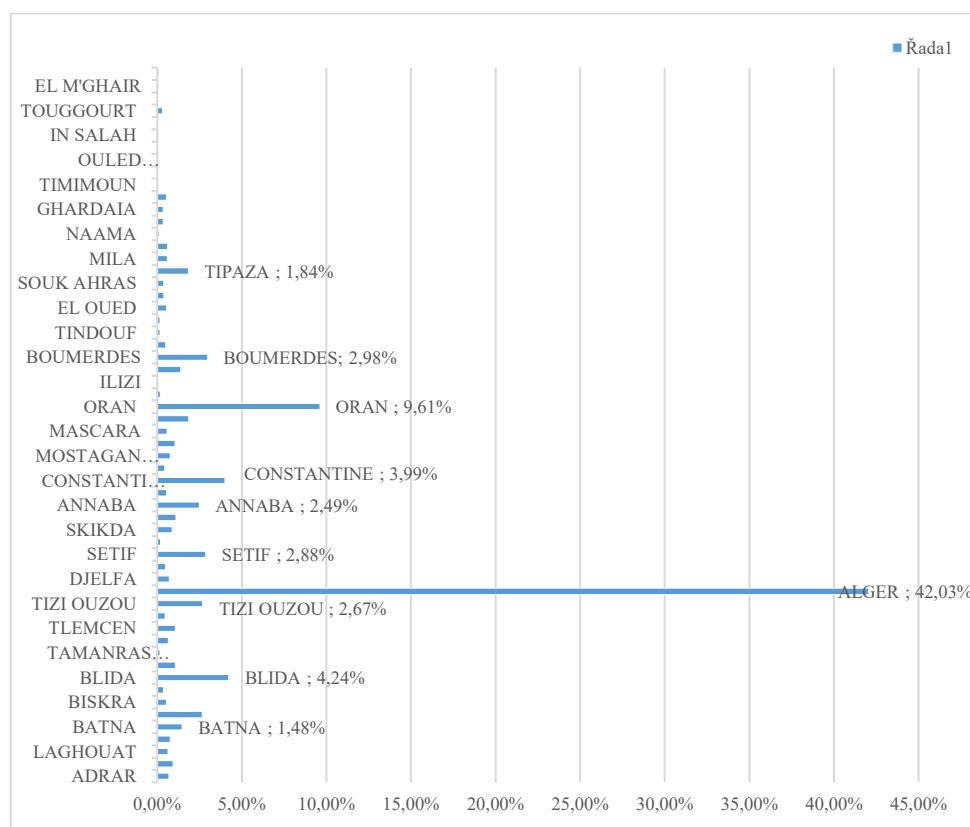
5 FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS IN ALGERIA: CHARACTERISTICS AND SECTORAL DYNAMICS

In the study of female entrepreneurship, the status of female manager serves as a revealing indicator of women's active participation within the formal economic fabric. Being a manager is not limited to a simple legal representation function, rather, it is a role that involves women in the strategic and daily conduct of economic activity. Indeed, the manager is often at the origin of the entrepreneurial project, ensuring its financial viability, making management decisions, coordinating human and material resources, and facing market uncertainties. This role therefore implies comprehensive entrepreneurial skills, such as the capacity for initiative, a sense of innovation, risk-taking, decisional autonomy and organisational management. Thus, the female manager tangibly embodies the figure of the entrepreneur within the Algerian economic context, particularly in small and medium-sized structures. Analysing the geographical and sectoral distribution of women in these positions allows for a better understanding of the actual dynamics of female entrepreneurship, regional disparities, and the potential and constraints that female entrepreneurs encounter on the ground. This managerial role, which is still socially undervalued, illustrates the slow evolution of gender relations within the Algerian economy. As highlighted by Brush & Cooper (2012), women's access to leadership functions remains a key indicator of economic empowerment. However, in the Algerian context, this assumption of responsibility faces persistent institutional and cultural constraints (Ouadah Rebrab, 2016), limiting the full recognition of female leadership.

Figure 3 highlights a strong geographical disparity in the distribution of female managers in Algeria in 2023. Out of a total of 15,640 women, the wilaya of Algiers alone accounts for 42.03 per cent of the workforce, representing approximately 6,578 women. This figure testifies to the marked centralisation of economic activity in the capital, where access to administrative services, infrastructure, markets and entrepreneurial opportunities is more developed than in other regions of the country. The urban density, the large female active population and the presence of numerous support structures also explain this over-representation. Oran holds the second position with 9.61 per cent of female managers, roughly 1,503 women, as this wilaya is a major economic centre in Western Algeria with a relatively dynamic entrepreneurial fabric. It

plays the role of a significant regional hub, particularly in services, trade and certain industries. Blida follows with 4.24 per cent, approximately 663 women, benefiting from its proximity to the capital and an attractive economic environment. Constantine, at 3.99 per cent in the east of the country, also shows a significant presence of female managers with about 624 women, reflecting a more assertive regional development in certain large cities. This spatial concentration of female leadership confirms the trend already observed in other Maghreb countries, where metropolises play a driving role in the feminisation of entrepreneurship (Mendil & Boukrif, 2021; OECD, 2024). These results also corroborate the idea that the urban environment, by offering more social capital and support infrastructure, favours the visibility and viability of businesses led by women. However, this urban polarisation reflects a structural dependence on privileged areas, reinforcing regional inequalities regarding access to entrepreneurship (Minniti & Naudé, 2010).

Figure 3: Spatial distribution of female managers in Algeria, 2023: share of the national total by region



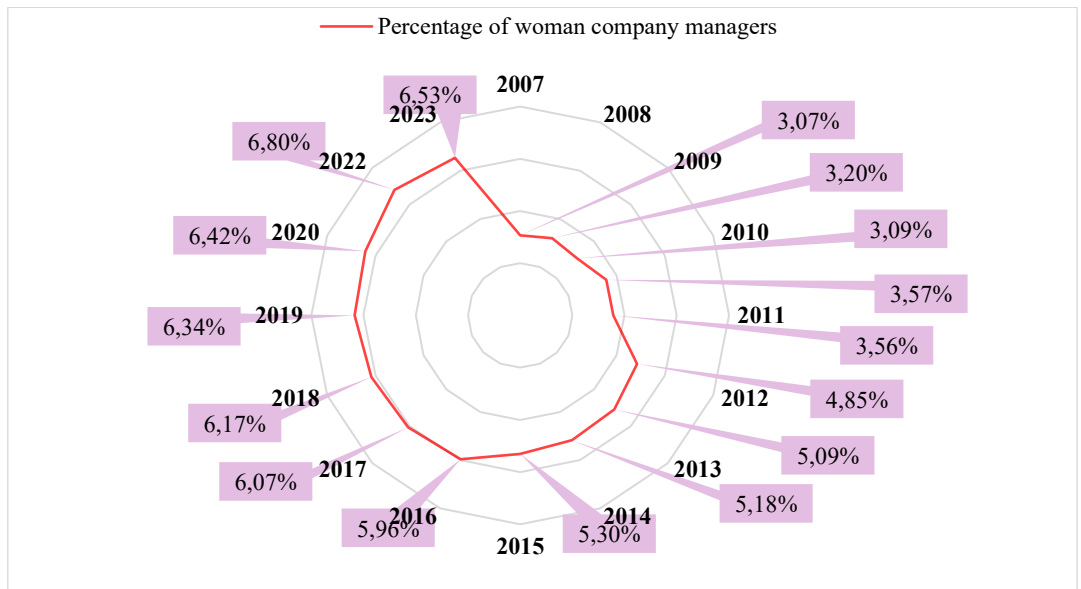
Source : (CNRC, 2007 - 2023)

Other wilayas, such as Boumerdès at 2.98 per cent, Sétif at 2.88 per cent, Tizi Ouzou at 2.67 per cent and Annaba at 2.49 per cent, show moderate levels, reflecting a certain degree of female entrepreneurial dynamism that remains concentrated around major urban centres. These regions, which are relatively more developed than other interior or Saharan wilayas, show signs of women's involvement in business management, even if this remains limited. Conversely, many wilayas display very low proportions, often below 1 per cent, particularly in the southern wilayas, such as Tindouf, In Salah, Tamanrasset and Adrar, or in more landlocked and rural regions. This reflects the difficulties women face in accessing entrepreneurship in these areas due to several factors, including low population density, sociocultural constraints, limited access to finance, a scarcity of economic opportunities and insufficient infrastructure.

The data thus highlights a very marked concentration of female entrepreneurship in large coastal cities to the detriment of rural or Saharan zones, a distribution that reflects significant territorial inequalities regarding women's access to business management. To promote more balanced development, targeted policies are necessary to support women in disadvantaged regions by providing them with better access to training, finance, mentoring and entrepreneurial awareness. This territorial distribution can also be put into perspective with national trends observed over the 2007–2023 period regarding the feminisation of management positions. The available data presented in Figure 4 indicates a slow but steady progression in the percentage of female managers relative to the total number of managers, rising from 3.07 per cent in 2007 to 6.53 per cent in 2023.

This evolution reflects a dynamic of increasing inclusion of women within the formal entrepreneurial world, even if their share remains relatively low on a national scale. The contrast between this national trend and the sharp regional disparities highlighted in the geographical distribution shows that the rise of female entrepreneurship remains concentrated in specific wilayas, notably Algiers, Oran and Blida, while other regions remain poorly represented. These findings confirm that territorial gaps in female entrepreneurship cannot be explained solely by overall national dynamics, but also stem from specific local factors that warrant further in-depth exploration.

Figure 4 : Trends in the proportion of female company managers in Algeria, 2007–2023



Source: (CNRC, 2007 - 2023)

This upward trend, although moderate, testifies to a slow but real transformation of the Algerian entrepreneurial landscape. It aligns with the findings of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM, 2023), which suggest that North Africa is experiencing a progressive feminisation of entrepreneurship, driven by incentive-based public policies and increasing access to training. However, the low overall share of female managers indicates that these advances remain fragile and unequally distributed. As suggested by Shaw & Carter (2007), the sustainability of this progression will depend on the capacity of institutions to establish an environment conducive to the durability of female initiatives, particularly through the reduction of credit access constraints and the improvement of local governance. Overall, these results show that Algerian female entrepreneurship is structured around a spatially and socially polarised model, being concentrated in major metropolises, limited in peripheral zones and weakly integrated into formal economic circuits. This dynamic reflects an unequal modernisation of the economic role of women, oscillating between a progressive opening in urban centres and persistent marginalisation in rural and Saharan areas. These findings call for strategic reflection on public policies aimed at strengthening territorial inclusion and

promoting sustainable and equitable female entrepreneurship on a national scale.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The systematic analysis of data provided by the National Centre of the Commercial Register (CNRC) offers a vital window into the shifting landscape of female entrepreneurship in Algeria. Far from being a uniform trend, the results reveal a complex and often contrasted reality where economic, territorial, and sociocultural factors intersect at every level. While the international literature, notably the work of Brush et al. (2018), Kelley et al. (2017), Minniti (2010), and the foundational perspectives of Shapero and Sokol (1982), frequently highlights the structural and gendered constraints that define global markets, our findings suggest that in Algeria, these obstacles are tied to a slow but meaningful evolution in economic behaviour. Although the average share of female entrepreneurs hovered below the 10 per cent mark between 2007 and 2023, as also noted in broader studies by the World Bank (2020) and the ILO (2025), the fact that the number of female managers and traders doubled in less than two decades is a compelling indicator of progress. It points toward a steady movement of women away from informal or invisible roles and toward the formal circuits of the national economy, signalling a profound change in the way women navigate the professional sphere.

A central driver of this transformation is a distinct and powerful generational shift. The massive influx of women aged between 19 and 28 into the entrepreneurial space since 2010 illustrates a new era of aspirations, where young women seek autonomy and social valuation through the creation of their own enterprises. This cohort represents a sharp departure from traditional career paths, yet their momentum remains inherently fragile. The recent fluctuations observed in this demographic suggest that, while entrepreneurial intention is at an all-time high, the actual sustainability of these ventures is heavily dictated by macroeconomic volatility and the relative consistency of public support policies. This leads to a critical discussion regarding the "will vs. power" gap described by Tahir Metaiche and Bendiabdellah (2016), as the transition from a conceptual project to a surviving business is still frequently obstructed by a lack of specialised resources that can buffer young female founders against market instability.

The macro-territorial approach adopted in this research further exposes what can be described as a spatial paradox within the Algerian geography. Our mapping identifies two diverging models of activity that coexist within the same borders, an urban model and a peripheral one. Major northern metropolises, specifically Algiers, Oran, Constantine, and Blida, act as high-density hubs where female entrepreneurs benefit from superior infrastructure, better market accessibility, and robust institutional networks. Conversely, while some regions in the High Plateaus and the South show high relative rates of feminisation, these activities are often built on more precarious and less diversified economic foundations. This spatial divide confirms the coexistence of opportunity-based entrepreneurship in urban centres and necessity-based micro-activities in landlocked zones, a distinction that aligns with the analyses of Semmache and Benhabib (2022) as well as the typologies proposed by Madaoui (2008).

Beyond the maps and statistics, these findings suggest that female entrepreneurship acts as a vital barometer for the broader socio-economic mutation of Algerian society. The persistent regional disparities and limited overall representation testify to the enduring weight of social norms and structural barriers to resources, yet the rise of younger founders offers a clear signal for the future of territorial development. To move beyond the current limitations, public policy must shift away from a "one-size-fits-all" model toward a more localised and integrated strategy. This requires decentralised administrative support, vocational training tailored to regional market needs, and the creation of territorial mentoring networks that can bridge the gap between urban hubs and the hinterlands. Ultimately, fostering an environment where female leadership can thrive in both the bustling metropolis and the rural interior is essential for building a truly resilient, inclusive, and modern Algerian economy.

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