

The Commercial Structure and its Impact on the Cities' Hierarchy of the Province(State-Town) of Mila

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Abstract

The present research aims to study : "The Commercial structure and its impact on the cities' Hierarchy of the province of Mila" using a Zipf base. It has been shown that there is a population concentration in the city of Chelghoum laid followed by Mila in various population censuses, as well as a significant correlation between the impact of the commercial structure and the size of the cities.

In order to find a balance between the distribution of population and commerce retail in Mila's cities, according to these relationships, some procedures recommended by the present research must be taken

Key words: Cities' hierarchy, trade, Commerce, food activities, non-food activities, Mila State.

INTRODUCTION

Business (commerce) activity is a mirror that reflects the economic and social level of the inhabitant, thus its being closely linked to all segments of society, trade plays a leading role in cities and the importance of business activity increases by increasing the importance of the city's functionality.

Trade's activity of its different kinds is one of the structured service activities prepared for such a domain and encouraging the relationships of the different actors, as well as Trade plays a fundamental role in the development of urban growth in cities.

As cities grow and develop, so does trade, diversification and expansion, the economic development participates, improved standard of living, higher purchasing power, and the development of transport contribute to the creation of new forms of business activities.

The importance of trade is generally demonstrated by its penetrating depth, both in the economic structure and in the relationships that characterize the organization of the field, as a result, both researches and methods have been multiplied dealing with this type of trade, particularly those related to trade reconstruction.¹

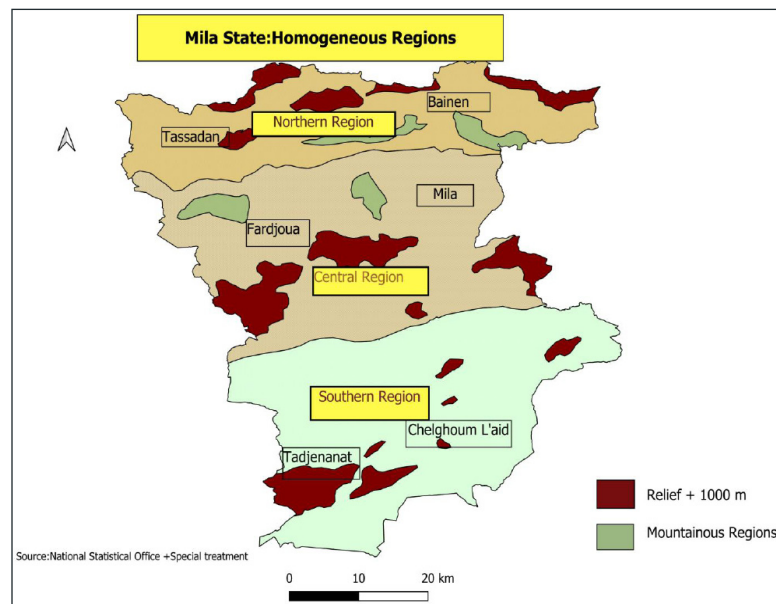
The province of Mila is distinguished by three different geographical areas (map n°. 01), thus making it an important trade position in the north-east of Algeria in terms of economic activities related to the volume of trade flows on the pillars of East-West and North-South, which have had positive effects on the trade movement of the state, upgrading its performance in terms of quality and quantity and expanding its sphere of influence²

Business activities increased after Algeria's economic, social and political developments, and giving more opportunities to private initiative, market openness and liberalization of the commercial sector in 1993.³

1 Executive decree n 15-19 issued on January 25th, 2015, fixing the modalities of preparing contracts of reconstruction and its deliverance.

2 Merenne-Schoumaker B, Geography and commerce services; University Presses of Rennes, 2003, P18

3 Abdel kader Mechedel : The experience of of Algeria to transfer to Transition to market economy and the problematic development of the industry Algerian magazine of economy and management, folder 8, N°1? P-31-41



THE OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

The research aims to:

- Identify the definition of the term “middle cities”.
- Highlighting the hierarchy of the urban centers of Mila State according to the fake rule
- Demonstrate the impact of urban centers’ hierarchies on the retail structure of Mila State.

The Problematic

Through this presentation, we can raise the problem of the study in highlighting the impact of the hierarchy of cities on the trading structure of Mila State, which we have chosen as a model for this research after the state’s evolution of this kind of trade and large population size.

Thus, the problem of the study is highlighted by the following question: How does the impact of cities’ hierarchies on the structure of trade Mila appear?

Research Methodology

The methodology adapted in the research was based on the analytical descriptive method that helped us to illustrate the impact of business structure on the growth of the cities of

the province of Mila –Algeria with a tendency to index the hierarchy of cities, as well as the quantitative statistical method carried out with many variables related to commercial mobility with a mandate and its impact on field organization.

The research was also based on theoretical sources represented in books, researches and references relevant to the research topic, besides, the General censuses of population and housing bulletin issued the National Statistical office general population and housing censuses, and retail trade data taken from the special data from the commercial register.

The research covers all 32 municipalities of Mila State, including urban and rural municipalities, and the research tool was field desk survey in all data from its sources. Before that, I have seen, that it is necessary to show(give an idea) about the importance of the mandate’s (province) location and its role in the centralization of commercial activities.

Mandate Submission (The Administrative Geographical Situation)

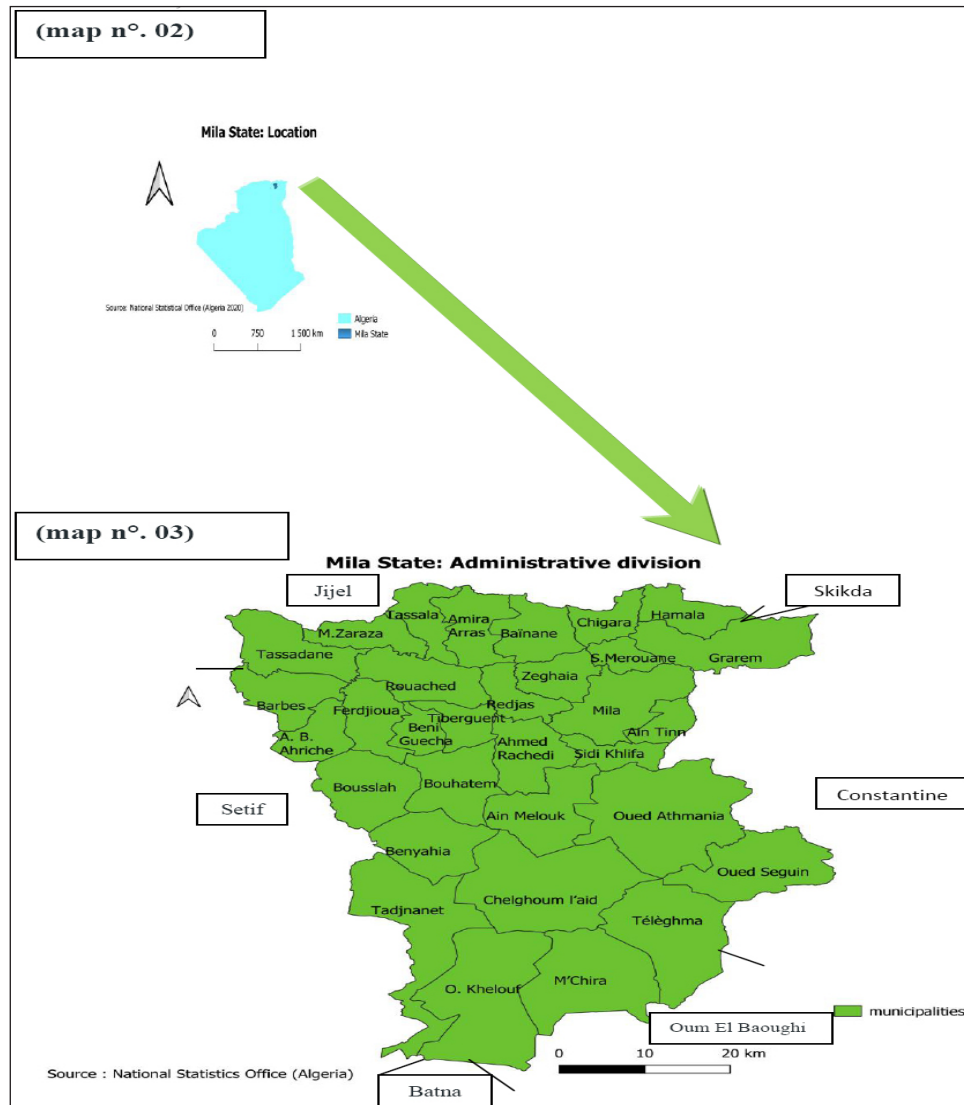
State location encouraging business activity Mila’s 1984 administrative division, consisting of 32 municipalities and 13 districts, was formed from an old state association (Constantine, jijel , Oum El Baoughi), with an area of 3,407.60 km², representing 0.14% of the total area of the country Algeria.

Administrative Location

Mila State is located north-east of Algeria, bordered by Jijel State to the north-east by Skikda and Constantine States, southwest by Setif State, southeast by Oum El-Baouaqui State and south by Batna State (see map No. 02 and 03).

Cities Classification

As a model of urban society, the city is a historical phenomenon dating back almost 8,000 years, where each city has its own independent personality. Thus, the difficulty of classifying cities is apparent, yet they can be classified into groups that are in keeping with each other, multiple criteria have been used, hence several city divisions have emerged, some of them based on one variable: statistical classification, function classification....



Functional Dimension

The city is considered as a population gathering, which has the most important urban functions, especially service functions.⁴

Ralph Linton.R defines the city as: a community that lives on swapping made products and services for food and raw materials and its actual presence depends on this swap.⁵

Mustafa Al-Khachab defines it as: a limited-area urban social unit divided into departments in which activity is based

⁴ Khalef Allah Boudjemaa, the previous reference, P68

⁵ Mustapha Omar Hamada, the new states (towns): The study of the urban anthropology, the university knowledge house, no country of publication; year 2008, P30

on industry and trade, and agricultural workers are reduced, services, jobs and institutions are diversified, and the city is dense, easy to transport and plan its facilities and buildings.⁶ One of the most important functions that distinguish the city from the countryside is industrial , transportation, cultural, scientific, administrative, recreational... etc.

By reference to the legislator, the definition of the city was omitted until 2006. Article III of Act no. 06-06, which contains the City's Directive Act, defines it as follows: Every urban gathering of a population size has administrative, economic, social, cultural, etc.

Statistical Dimension

The remote city is a gathering of minimal people, above a specific geographical area, that has been able to ensure a thoughtful population density, and statistical standards⁷ then vary from state to state. They are large and heterogeneous populations, living on a specific plot of land, from which the effects of urban life are widespread and their people work in industry, commerce or both, and are characterized by multiple political and social functions.

For example, in Algeria (Algiers)every urban gathering of at least 5,000 inhabitants is an urban gathering. Every urban gathering involving 50000-100000 people is an intermediate city.⁸

The Administrative Concept of the City (Town)

The Middle City is an urban center, capable of decision-making structuring, regulating its sphere and generally controlling the growth and development of the sector. This has been realized by the achievement of administrative and economic institutions and the creation of a local authority capable of implementing national policies, and these cities have been upgraded to the headquarters of a department or State.

The General Concept of the Middle City

If the functional meaning has a convergence, the volumetric meaning is quite different, since the latter depends mainly on the population size factor, which is determined on the basis of the average duration, the larger the population the higher the thresholds of size.

As a result, the Middle City concept draws us to the criteria for measuring both statistical and functional connotations. Demographic, cultural and economic components and the spatial role of many States " The nature and mobility of urban growth are easy and inexpensive and have a quiet urban lifestyle. ⁹The concept of Algeria's intermediate cities focuses on population size, functional role and spatial dynamism, with a population of between 60000- 120000 and its delicate functional role, it complements the functional role of large and urban cities. It exerts influence over 04 to 08 local areas that occupy a vital position in infrastructure networks. The flow of services and activities and its population's strong sense of civilization.¹⁰

Urban Growth Rate

In nearly 43 years, the population in Mila's mandate(state) has grown by 839,942 inhabitants by an absolute annual increase of 19,533 inhabitants/year, which shows that the population has almost quadrupled during this period of time.

Table 1. Mila State: Growth Rate Evolution 1977-2020

Growth rate	Stage	Number -population	Years
//	//	28300	1977
3%	77/78	510900	1987
2.58%	87/98	678537	1998
1.22%	98/2008	766886	2008
08/2020	08/2020	839942	Estimations 2020

Source: Algeria's National Office + Personal Account

6 Mustapha Omar Hamada , the previous reference2008, P31

7 Khalef Allah Boudjemaa, Urbanism and the town.El Hoda house .Ain-Mila .2005.P60

8 Article n° 03 of the town law n°06-06 issued 20/02/2006 holding the orientation law of town , the official journal .n°15

9 The general statistics of Population and Housing .The national office of. The urban structure n°97 year 1998 P.73

10 Marc cote .Intermediate town in the Mediterranean. The case of Algeria copy Book Mediterranean N° 50 June1995.p73-80

Noting that this increase has been evident since 1984 as a result of the upgrading of a tendency to a State, which has led to improve social and economic conditions in the area of a study summarizing in

- Expanding the labor basin by applying the objectives of the agricultural revolution.
- Establishment of various health and educational equipments...

Zipf base G .K (1949-1941)

It explains that there is a regular relationship between the first city and the other cities in the same country and that this is known as the rank and size rule and it is possible to know the size of a city if we know the rank and the volume the first town. $P_n = P_1/n$

P_n: Volume of population the urbanism center of the rank n and n is the rank of the urban center.

P/: Volume of the urban center of the first rank . The rule states that the size of the second city is equal to half the size of the first city and the size of the third city is equal to one third the size of the first city and the size of the fourth city is equal to one quarter the size of the first city.

Table 2. Population Size by 2008 Falsification Base

Population bybase	Grade	Population	Municipality	Population by ..base	Grade	Population	Municipality
4856	17	17378	Tassadane	82560	1	82560	Chelghoum l'aid
4587	18	15819	Ahmed Rachedi	41280	2	69052	Mila
4345	19	15676	Tassala	27520	3	53536	Tadjanet
4128	20	14661	Chigara	20640	4	50167	Ferdjioua
3931	21	14200	Ain Melouk	16512	5	48028	Télèghma
3753	22	13319	Oued Seguin	13760	6	42062	Grarem
3590	23	12905	M'Chira	11794	7	40688	Oued Athmania
3440	24	11810	Beni Guecha	10320	8	27086	Rouached
3302	25	11396	O. Khelouf	9173	9	23299	Baïnane
3175	26	11213	Hamala	8256	10	23088	Sidi Merouane
3058	27	10052	Benyahia	7505	11	22535	Minar Zaraza
2949	28	10013	Bousslah	6880	12	21013	Ain Beida Ahriche
2847	29	9282	Tiberguent	6351	13	20277	Bouhatem
2752	30	7780	Ain Tinn	5897	14	19739	Redjas
2663	31	6459	Barbes	5504	15	19405	Amira Arras
2580	32	4746	Sidi Khelifa	5160	16	17638	Zeghaia

Source: Algeria's National Office + Personal Account

Through tables (2, 3), the geographical location of the field of study affects the distribution of the population. The State has a combination of 03 geographical areas and thus a link between the north and the interior of the homeland of the eastern part of the country. This has made it an important strategic center for the mediation of important mandates in the region, the most important of which are: Constantine, Setif, Batna and Djijel , especially in the field of commerce which made for the state a vital role that attract more customers and traders from the nearest neighboring cities and states.

Table 3. Population Size by 2020 Falsification Base

Population bybase	Grade	Population	Municipality	Population by ..base	Grade	Population	Municipality
1097	17	18642	Tassadane	110468	1	110468	Chelghoum l'aid
1014	18	18261	Ahmed Rachedi	41580	2	83159	Mila
894	19	16992	Tassala	20139	3	60416	Tadjnanet
827	20	16545	Chigara	14890	4	59558	Ferdjioua
778	21	16335	Ain Melouk	10762	5	53809	Télèghma
737	22	16213	Oued Seguin	8767	6	52604	Grarem
689	23	15848	M'Chira	7051	7	49355	Oued Athmania
579	24	13894	Beni Guecha	3599	8	28793	Rouached
524	25	13088	O. Khelouf	3073	9	27661	Bainane
500	26	13004	Hamala	2438	10	24384	Sidi Merouane
469	27	12661	Benyahia	2132	11	23455	MinarZaraza
363	28	10166	Bousslah	1815	12	21785	A. B. Ahriche
338	29	9807	Tiberguent	1648	13	21421	Bouhatem
273	30	8185	Ain Tinn	1485	14	20793	Redjas
239	31	7423	Barbes	1300	15	19502	Amira Arras
164	32	5246	Sidi Khelifa	1175	16	18798	Zeghaia

Source: Personal Account

Quantitative Approach and Distribution of Two Areas for Shops : “A Clear Focus for Both Central and Southern Region”

The importance of business activities increases through the proliferation of a large number of shops estimated to 2165 shops spreading across the state territory as shown in Table No. (04):

Table 4. State of Store distribution inclination

Number of shops	Municipality	Number of shops	Municipality	Number of shops	Municipality	Number of shops	Municipality
350	Chelghoum l'aid	20	Benyahia	30	Ahmed Rachedi	10	Barbes
200	Tadjnanet	350	Mila	30	Bouhatem	50	Bainane
150	Télèghma	150	Ferdjioua	35	A. B. Ahriche	30	Tassadane
90	Oued Athmania	70	Redjas	25	Beni Guecha	30	MinarZaraza
30	Ain Melouk	130	Grarem	20	Ain Tinn	25	Amira Arras
25	Oued Seguin	50	Sidi Merouane	20	Tiberguent	25	Chigara
20	M'Chira	50	Rouached	15	Bousslah	20	Hamala
20	O. Khelouf	50	Zeghaia	10	Sidi Khelifa	25	Tassala

Source: Field Investigation 2019-2020

- The Southern Region has 905 shops representing 41.8% of the total shops, advanced by the Municipality of Chelghoum l'aid 16.17% with a total of 38.67% of the shops in the Southern Region (350 shops) followed by Tadjnanet with 9.24% of the total shops 22.10% of the shops in the Region, and then the rest of the municipalities in different municipalities percentage.
- The central region has 1055 shops and ranks the first in the state of Mila with 73.48% of the total shops in the field

of study, first in the municipality of Mila with 350 shops, equivalent to 41.8% of the total shops in the field of study 17,67% of the total shops in this area, then the municipalities of Ferdjioua and then to Grarem with percentages . 936% and 6% respectively of the state's total stores, 14.22% and 12.32% of the total stores of the central region and then the rest of the municipalities of the central region in varying percentages.

- The northern region holds 205 shops and ranks last in the field of study 9.49% of the total shops in the field of study. The percentage of shops is only 2.35% in all municipalities that make up this area.
- The municipalities of Ayadi Barbes, Sidi Khelifa , with 20 shops .
- This situation is due to several reasons that can be summarized as follow :
- A large concentration of shops in the central region is due to the presence of the largest number of municipalities (17 municipalities) in addition to the presence of the municipality of Mila, which is the centre of the state and provides it on all factors of commercial settlement (ease of access, population cluster, financial and service institutions.
- The importance of the location of some municipalities has contributed to the increase in the number of their shops, especially those located on the most important national roads and with high population volumes, in addition to their commercial specialization, for example: Shalghum Eid, Taganat, Taghmat.... A role in the rise in the number of its stores...
- Therefore, we will study the relationship of population sizes with the number of shops in urban centers' in the field of study.
- The high volume of the population is controlled by commercial weight, and the economic specialization of some municipalities has played a role in the rise of the number of its shops.
- Therefore, we will study the relationship between the population sizes with the number of shops in urban centers' in the field of study.

The Relation of the Population Sizes in Comparison to the Number of Shops in Municipalities “Strong Correlation and Good Business Coverage”. Figure N (01)

In order to clarify the nature of the relationship between population size and the number of shops in each municipality of Mila (figure No. 01), which shows the following:

- The correlation coefficient $r = 0.919111$, which is a strong coefficient and very close to 1, shows that there is a strong correlation between the size of the population and the number of shops in the field of study, the more the population is accompanied by the increase in the number of shops, which reflects well-targeted business coverage for the residents of Mila State.

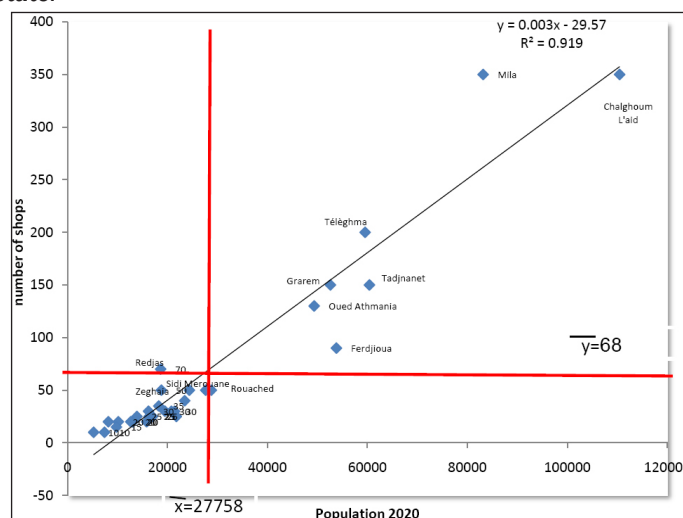


Figure 1. The relation of the Population sizes in comparison to the number of shops

11 The correlation factor r between $(-1+1)$ is calculated in the following

12 A. Lekehal, 1982, p. 54

- The majority of municipalities are located near the ideal line, showing a strong correlation between the size of the state's population and the number of shops, which means optimal commercial service for the population and their needs.
- Led by Mila Municipality, which has a per capita share of 1 business/238 people and is far from the ideal line from the top and then followed by the municipalities of Rajas and Tadjnant, which are also away from the ideal line and estimated their share of shops in order of 1/266 and 1/298, which means that they have more shops than their population size.
- Followed by the municipality of Cheghoum l'aid, which approaches the bottom of the ideal line, this indicates a harmony between the population and the number of shops. Its share of shops has been estimated at 1 shops/276 inhabitants
- The share of municipalities is also estimated at less than 1 commercial shop/410 inhabitants, which represents the average share of the number of shops per state each of the municipalities of Télégma, Zeghaia, Ferdjioua, Grarem and Ain -Tin. These municipalities have medium coverage in terms of shops.
- The rest of the municipalities had a share of more than 1 shops/410 inhabitants in the sense that they were municipalities with a low number of shops that did not correspond to their population size.

Classification of Shops According to Food and Non-Food Activity

"A rating that highlights the power of commercial attraction."

There are several classifications of shops, but in this research we relied only on the classification of shops with food and non-food activity according to field work data and highlights (Table 09). From Table No. F (Table No. () of the Supplement) the number of shops with food activity is 784 shops in the field of study, representing 36.72% of the total shops, and 1351 non-food shops, representing 63.28% and distributed in varying proportions in the state of Mila.

Southern Region

The percentage of non-food shops is 65,64%, or 594 places mostly in the municipality of Chelghoum l'aid , is more than 41% (244 shops) of the total shops in the Southern Region of this type followed by Tadjanet and 110 and 103 shops respectively. For shops with food activity, there were 311 shops, or 36% of the total shops in the southern region, led by the municipality of Chelghoum l'aid, and then the municipality of Tadjanet with 106 and 89 shops, respectively, and the rest of the municipalities in varying percentages .

Central Region

The non-food shops 65.65% (672 shops) ranks in first place. A large number of shops was known by the municipalities of Mila and then Ferdjioua with 234 shops and 109 shops respectively and the rest of the municipalities. For food shops estimated at 353 shops or 34, 44% of the Central Region's total shops came in the first grades of Mila Municipality, then Grarem 116 and 64 shops, respectively, and the rest of the municipalities in varying proportions.

Northern Region

The proportion of food shops was 35.72% (73 shops) in varying proportions, while for non-food shops it was estimated at 132 shops, 64.39% of the total shops in the Northern Region in close proportions.

CONCLUSION

As a result of the application of ZIF rule in the field of the State of Mila , it is inclined, in particular, to the State's three most important cities in terms of population size, as a result of the reconciliation of the administrative and functional boundaries between them, we found that the discrepancies and discrepancies arose mainly from the topography of the regions, which demarcated the administrative boundaries of the state and, on the other hand, administrative boundaries resulting from administrative division during the colonial phase, which have created dysfunctional areas that the State has been unable to erase despite attempts to mitigate. A new organization of the mandate (province)should therefore be envisaged with a view to alleviating the differences between the integration of shadow and marginalized areas and attempting to promote them in order to serve their sphere and surroundings and thereby achieve comprehensive development.

The cities of Mila State have experienced accelerated urban growth, which has put pressure on important cities in the study area, and the rural exodus to important cities in the state, especially during the security conditions experienced by Algeria and the resulting internal migration of rural areas towards the cities. One of the most important forms of business is retail trade, which is known by the various municipalities of the state as rural or urban, and which has also been progressing since successive periods of time owing to migration from the countryside to the main urban centers in search of employment, stability and security, and to the improvement of the family's social and economic situation.

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