

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Algeria: A Review of the Current Situation, Opportunities, and Challenges.

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Abstract

This research paper aims to shed light on the actual situation of small and medium-sized enterprises in Algeria. In order to achieve the research objective, an analytical study was conducted using the official statistics of SMEs provided by the ministry of industry and Pharmaceutical production. In addition, this paper presents the different support facilities provided by the government for SMES in Algeria. The present research shows the evolution of the population of SMEs from 2020 to the end of 2022, and their contribution to employment, economy diversification and value added creation. Based on the result of the data analysis this study makes a SWOT analysis to provide a new comprehensive understanding of how SMEs contribute to the economic development in Algeria and what limits their role in economy development.

Keywords:

SMEs;
Support Facilities
Algerian Economy;
Economic Development;
Algeria:

JEL Classification Codes: L26 ;
L53 ; M13 ; M55 ;

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1. INTRODUCTION

In Algeria, SMEs constitute a significant proportion of enterprises that enrich the business environment as a result of the privatization and public reform in the early 1990s, a period marked by radical changes in the economic system transitioning from a public-controlled economy to a more market-oriented economy. These reforms created a more favorable environment for the private sector.

In order to support the creation of new small enterprises, the Algerian government has implemented a number of strategies, policies, and programs aimed at strengthening and assisting the private sector. Recognizing the importance of SMEs to the economy, various support agencies have been established to facilitate the creation and the expansion of new small enterprises including; ANADE, CNAC, ANGEM, and FGAR. These specialized agencies offer not only financial funding but also training, and advisory services.

The increasing focus on SMEs as an important driver of the Algerian economy raises several questions about their performance and their potential in minimizing unemployment, modernizing local production, diversifying economic activities, and fostering economic growth. This, to our research question:

How are Algerian SMEs positioned within the national economy, and how do they perform in terms of employment, value-added creation, and economic diversification?

2. Theoretical Background

Small and medium enterprises play a key role in social and economic development in both developed and underdeveloped countries, regarding their potential to create real added value to the economy, increase local production capabilities, increase exports, and decrease unemployment and poverty rates.

2.1 Legislative Framework of SMEs in Algeria

According to Algerian Law No. 17-01 published in the official journal of the Algerian Republic, a small and medium enterprise, regardless of its status is “a production enterprise of goods and services that employs from 1 to 250 workers with an annual revenue of four (04) billion Algerian dinars and an annual balance sheet that does not exceed one (01) billion Algerian dinars with respect to the independence criterion” (Official Journal of the Algerian Republic, 2017). According to the above definition, the Algerian Law No. 17-01, defined:

- The small enterprise as an enterprise that employs between 10 to 49 people, with a turnover not exceeding 200 million DZD, and total annual budgets not exceeding 100 million DZD.
- The micro-enterprise as an enterprise that employs 1 to 9 people, with a turnover not exceeding 20 million DZD, and total annual budgets not exceeding 10 million DZD.
- The medium-sized enterprise as an enterprise that employs between 50 and 250 people, with a turnover ranging from 200 million DZD to 2 billion DZD, and an annual budget totaling between 100 million DZD and 500 million DZD.

The definition of SMEs adopted by the Algerian legislator is compatible with the one given by the European Commission in the EU, which was published in the official journal of the European Community (Commission, 2003).

The following table represents the classification of SMEs according to the Algerian law:

Table 1. SMEs' Classification in Algeria

Standard	Micro	Small	Medium
Number of Employees	1 - 9 worker	10 - 49 worker	50 - 250 worker
Turnover	< 40 million DZD	< 400 million DZD	400 million - 4 billion DZD
Annual Turnover	< 20 million DZD	< 200 million DZD	200 million - 1 billion DZD

Source: Ministry of industry and pharmaceutical production,
www.industrie.gov.dz

2.2 The Importance of SMEs for Economies

Empowering SMEs and entrepreneurs is crucial to sustainable and inclusive growth. They fuel innovation and competition, sustain competitiveness in global markets and value chains, provide a main source of employment, champion inclusion and represent the lifeblood of local economies and communities. They are also pivotal in the transition of economies to a digital and sustainable future (OECD, 2024).

Compared with large corporations, SMEs have great advantages. These advantages are, among others, the following (Murat Bayraktar, 2019):

- Agility in decision-making: SMEs are more likely to make decisions more quickly and more efficient;
- Closer to customers: SMEs are more adept at understanding the demands of their customers;
- Greater flexibility and adaptability: SMEs are better flexible to adjust to future changes in the market to suit the new demands of the new market;
- Relationship and work environment: in SMEs, it is easier to generate and strengthen ties among workers.
- Strong communication: with SMEs, it is feasible to have direct and cross-cutting communication between all employees.
- The specialization in each market niche.

2.3 Support Facilities for SMEs in Algeria

In order to support entrepreneurship, modernize local production, diversify economic activities, and improve economic growth. The Algerian government has established different supportive agencies that provide the necessary requirements to support entrepreneurs and facilitate the creation of new small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

2.3.1 The National Agency for Support and Development of Entrepreneurship

The national agency for support and development of entrepreneurship is a public organization with a specific character, endowed with legal personality and financial autonomy, placed under the supervision of the minister of micro-enterprise, start-ups and the knowledge economy. The main missions of this agency are as follows (moukawil.dz, 2023):

- Accompany the project holders in the creation and the extension of their micro-enterprises.
- Provide the necessary economic, technical, legislative, and regulatory information about the business creation to the projects holders.
- Provide training on the techniques of microenterprise management to the young entrepreneurs' holder of projects.
- Provide funding and accompany to entrepreneurs holders of projects.

2.3.2 The National Fund for Ensuring Unemployment

The national fund for ensuring unemployment is a public organization created to reduce the economic and social effects of the involuntary firing of employees. In addition to its main

mission, which is unemployment compensation, it supports mid-carrier entrepreneurs between 30 and 50 years old to create their entrepreneurial projects by providing funding with an investment threshold increased to 10 million dinars (CDE, 2023)

2.3.3 The National Agency for Microcredit Management

The National Agency for Microcredit Management is a specialized institution in managing microcredit aiming to help fighting unemployment and precariousness in urban and rural areas by promoting self-employment, home-based work and crafts, especially among female populations. One of the main mission of the creation of the national agency for microcredit management is to support, advise and assist the beneficiaries of the microcredit in the implementation of their entrepreneurial activities and during the financial set-up and the credit mobilization (angem, 2023).

2.3.4 The Bank of credit Guarantee for SMEs

The Bank of credit Guarantee for SMEs in Algeria has been established in order to facilitate access to investment credits for SMEs through the establishment of guarantees for the coverage of loans granted by banks or financial institutions whose purpose is to (Ministry of industry and pharmaceutical production, 2023):

- Business
- Creation
- Renovation of equipment.
- The extension or development of activity.
- Investments equity.
- Provide advice and assistance to SMEs.

The main objective of this bank is to facilitate access to bank financing in the medium term to support the creation and expansion of SMEs by providing credit guarantees to commercial banks (Loan Guarantee Fund for SMEs FGAR, 2023).

2.3.5 Business Incubators, and Consultancy and Support Centers to SMEs

According to Art. 21a, business incubators' mission at the local level is to implement the support facilities for the creation of SMEs defined by the central structures of the agency, and to provide specific services to SMEs.

Business incubators are responsible in particular for (The Official Journal of the Algerian Republic,, 2020):

- Promoting the creation of SMEs through the provision of incubation services and the acceleration of newly established and innovative SMEs or high-growth potential SMEs.
- Providing additional accommodation to SMEs in difficulty, extending to sustainable support mechanisms.
- Conducting awareness and training actions in entrepreneurship, for the benefit of young people, in complementarily with existing facilities.
- Assessing the local potential for creating SMEs and diversifying industrial fabrics.
- Identifying outsourcing opportunities of large enterprises, specifically in industrial, in order to encourage the creation of SMEs in this framework.
- Assisting project owners with initial funds and other sources of funding.

According to Art. 21a. 1, consultancy and support centers to SMEs have the mission of implementing, at the local level, the programs and mechanisms for supporting development and sustainability, defined by the agency's central structures support for SMEs. In this regards, consultancy and support centers are notably responsible for:

- Study and analyze the needs of SMEs in connection with all relevant actors at the local level.
- Suggest programs of collective development or ecosystems of SMEs.
- Execute with all relevant actors at the local level, support programs and arrangements for SMEs provided by the agency in terms of:
 - Modernization of SMEs.
 - Subcontracting and support development for the strengthening of the national industrial integration.
 - Support innovation and digitization in the SMEs.
 - Support the sustainability and safeguarding of SMEs.
 - Develop SMEs' ecosystems.

In addition to the above support facilities, the public authorities have outlined multiple programs and established various support and guidance mechanisms to strengthen the network of small and medium-sized enterprises on one hand, and to enhance their performance by improving the competitiveness of the enterprises on the other hand. Regarding the support mechanisms established by the sector under the guiding law for the development of small and medium enterprises, the following are mentioned (Ministry of industry and pharmaceutical production, 2024):

2.3.6 The Agency for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises and the Promotion of Innovation ADPMEPI:

It is an authority established by Executive Decree No. 18-170 dated June 26, 2018, amended and supplemented by Executive Decree No. 25-331 dated November 22, 2020. The agency is responsible for implementing the policy for the development of small and medium enterprises in the areas of establishment, growth, and sustainability of these enterprises in coordination with the relevant sectors. The agency has local branches represented by support and consultation centers as well as institutional nurseries.

2.3.7 The National Council for Consultation to Develop Small and Medium Enterprises CNC DPME:

The council was established to enhance consultation and dialogue between public authorities and small and medium-sized enterprises, represented by professional associations and organizations, to form a genuine partnership between the two entities in terms of developing, implementing, and monitoring policies aimed at the development of small and medium-sized enterprises.

2.3.8 Rehabilitation programs:

The international cooperation provides a suitable framework to enhance partnership and benefit from various international experiences in various fields, and the small and medium enterprises sector is one of these focal points. In this regard, various cooperation programs have been recorded with a number of foreign partners as well as specialized international bodies, with the aim of supporting the sector's policy and implementing several initiatives aimed at developing the fabric of small and medium enterprises in Algeria to improve the competitiveness of our enterprises in the face of challenges at both the local and

international levels. Among these programs, we mention (Ministry of industry and pharmaceutical production, 2024):

2.3.8.1 Innovation and Development of Small and Medium Enterprises INNODEV project:

It is a bilateral cooperation program with the German partner, through the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

2.3.8.2 Small and Medium Enterprises Development Support Program PAD-PME:

The general objective of implementing the PAD-PME program is to improve the overall framework for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in Algeria by providing the necessary technical support to support and accompaniment agencies so that they can offer quality services.

2.3.8.3 Support Program for Algeria's Transition to a Green and Circular Economy ECOVERTEC:

The cooperation program called "ECOVERTEC" aims to stimulate supply and demand regarding sustainable consumption and production/ clean production (MCPD) – resource efficiency (PPER).

2.3.8.4 Industrial Diversification and Business Climate Improvement Support Program PADICA:

It aims to create conditions to increase the share of the industrial sector in the economy, contribute to the diversification of the Algerian economy, and improve the overall business environment to stimulate the creation of new companies.

In addition to all the above entrepreneurship facilities, and in order to take into consideration the particular features of startups and tech ventures, a new device was added by establishing the

Algerian Startup Fund (ASF), which provides support and funding for the creation and development of startups.

2.3.9 Algerian Start-up Fund

Established in October 2020, Algerian Startup Fund (ASF) is an investment capital company whose mission is to develop the entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem in Algeria by offering financing services that meet the needs of startups. The Algerian Startup Fund is the first fully dedicated investment fund for startups in Algeria and is one of the key pillars for the emergence of an ecosystem suitable for the creation and development of startups that have the capacity to bring real added value to the Algerian economy. Its main missions are about (Algerian Startup Fund, 2024):

- Funding: ASF funds startups to accelerate their growth based on risk capital.
- Accompanying and Management consulting: ASF assists startups with management and organizational consulting.
- Expertise: ASF offers expertise in several areas of activity.

Networking and Opportunities: ASF also gives startups access to a strong professional network and a diverse address book.

The presented data above reflects the efforts made by the government to support new entrepreneurs providing accompaniment and funding for the creation of new SMEs.

3. Case Analysis of SMEs in Algeria

In this study, a statistical analysis of SMEs' performance is conducted using data from SMEs that was provided by the ministry of industry.

3.1 SMEs Funded by Support Facilities in Algeria

This section highlights the contribution of the most famous support facilities to the creation and the financing of SMEs enterprises in Algeria till 2022.

3.1.1 SMEs Funded by ANADE

The following table shows SMEs funded by the national agency for support and development of entrepreneurship in Algeria till the end of 2021.

Table 2. SMEs Funded by ANADE

	Number	Investment Amount DZ	N of Jobs Created
Funded SMEs	395 812	1 299 599 585 235	944 525

Source: Statistical Information Bulletin, Ministry of Industry, N°40 Edition of April 2022, p 30.

By the end of 2021, ANADE financed 395 812 SMEs with a total of 1 299 599 585 235 DZD with an average of 3.28 million DZD per enterprise and contributed to the creation of 944 525 jobs.

3.1.2 SMEs Funded by CNAC

The following table shows the number of SMEs funded by the national fund for ensuring unemployment in Algeria by the end of 2022.

Table 3. SMEs Funded by CNAC

	N° of SMEs	Investment Amount DZ	N° of Forecasted Jobs
Funded SMEs	160 202	554 780 180 000	340 500

Source: Statistical Information Bulletin, Ministry of Industry, N°40 Edition of April 2023, p 30.

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By the end of 2021, CNAC financed 160 202 SMEs with a total of 554 780.180 million DZD with an average of 3.46 million DZD per entreprise and a potential of the creation of 340 500 jobs.

3.1.3 SMEs Funded by ANGEM

The following table shows the number of micro-enterprises funded by the national agency for microcredit management in Algeria by the end of 2022.

Table 4. SMEs Funded by ANGEM by 31/12/2022

	N° of SMEs	Total Credits Amount DZD	N° of Jobs Create
Funded SMEs	966 302	67 492 044 372,70	1 412 895

Source: Statistical Information Bulletin, Ministry of Industry, N°42 Edition of April 2023, p 26.

By 31 December 2022, ANGEM financed 966 302 micro entreprises in form of micro credit with a total of 67, 492 billion DZD resulting in the creation of abroximatelty 1 one million and half job positions. This reflects an extensive financial inclusion via a very small loans.

3.1.4 SMEs Funded by FGAR

The following table shows the number of SMEs funded by the bank of credit guarantee for SMEs in Algeria by the end of 2022.

Table 5. SMEs Funded by FGAR by 31/12/2022

	Number	Total Credits Amount DZD
Funded SMEs	1 050	20 193 000 000,00

Source: Statistical Information Bulletin, Ministry of Industry, N°42 Edition of April 2023, p 26.

By 31 December 2022, FGAR guaranteed credits for 1050 SMEs with a total of 20, 193 billion DZD representing an average of 19.23 million per firm.

Accompanied SMEs by business Incubators, and Consultancy and Support Centers.

The following table shows the number of projects accompanied by business incubators, and consultancy and support centers during year 2022.

Table 6. Projects Accompanied by Business Incubators, and Consultancy and Support Centers during the Year of 2022

	N° of accompanied Projects	N° of innovative Projects	N° of Forecasted Jobs
SMEs	331	18	711

Source: Statistical Information Bulletin, Ministry of Industry, N°42 Edition of April 2023, p 29.

3.2 The Evollution of SMEs in Algeria

Algeria's SME population has expanded rapidly from a few thousand informal artisans to hundreds of thousands of registered micro, small, and medium-sized firms. This growth reflects successive waves of policy support as well as rising entrepreneurial aspirations among youth. The present section

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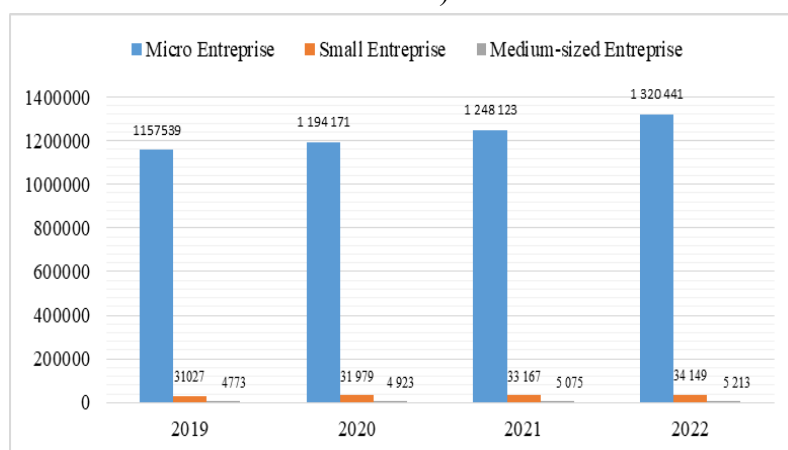
presents the evolution of the overall population of SMEs in Algeria till 2020 :

3.2.1 The Evolution of the Overall Population of SMEs by Size (2020 - 2022)

The total number of SMEs as of the end of 2022 is 1,359,803 enterprise of which 99.98% are private SMEs. The population of SMEs increased by 5.71% between 2021 and 2022, signifying a net rise of 73,438 SMEs.

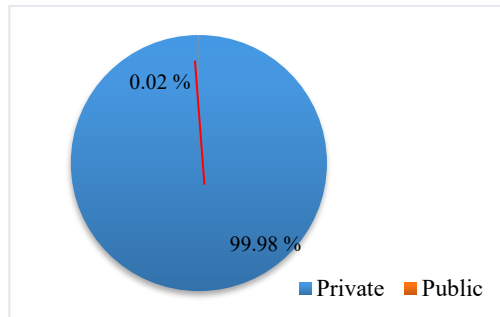
The following figure shows the evolution of the overall population of SMEs according to their size from 2020 to the end of 2022.

Fig 1. The Evolution of the Overall Population of SMEs by Size (2020 - 2022)



Source: Statistical Information Bulletin, (N°36, N°38, N°40, N°42), Ministry of Industry, Algeria.

At the end of 2022, the total number of SMEs stands at 1,359,803 entities, of which only 223 are Public Enterprises. The following figure shows the market share of SMEs according to their type; Private and Public.

Fig 2. The Market Share of SMEs

Source: Statistical Information Bulletin, Ministry of Industry, N°42 Edition of April 2023, p 07.

The figure above illustrates the dominance of private SMEs in Algeria's economy: of the 1,359,803 total enterprises at year-end 2022, just 223 (0.02 %) are public, leaving 99.98 % in private hands. This overwhelming private share underscores the critical role of individual entrepreneurs and family-run firms in driving job creation and economic activity.

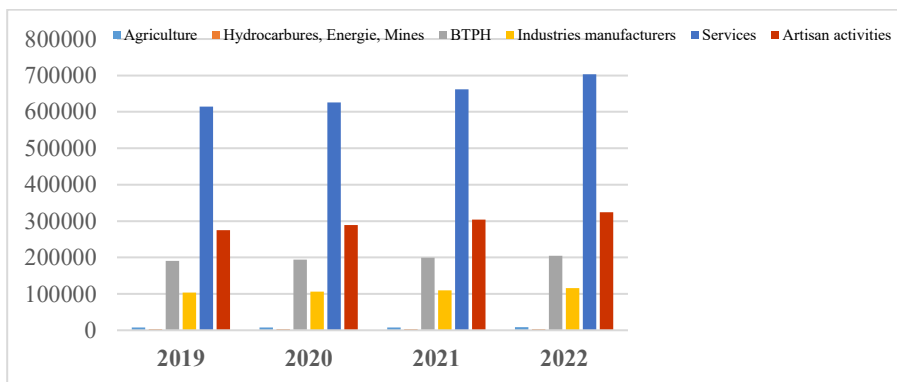
3.2.2 The Evollution of SMEs by Sector of Activity

This section represents the evolution of SMEs' population according to their sector of activity, where activities vary between agriculture, hydrocarbon, energy and mine, industry, service and artisan services.

The following figure shows the evolution of the overall population of SMEs from 2020 to the end of 2022 by sector of activity.

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Fig 3. The Evolution of SMEs' Population by Sector of Activity (2020 – 2022)

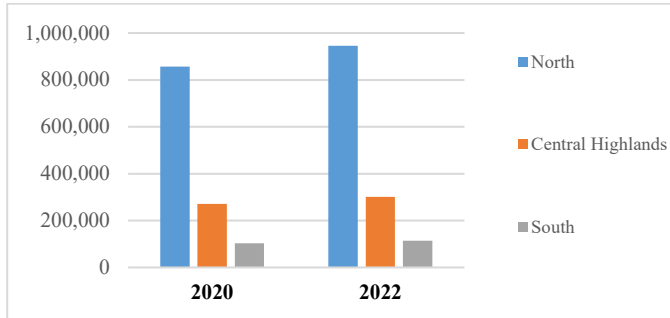


Source: Statistical Information Bulletin, (N°36, N°38, N°40, N°42), Ministry of Industry, Algeria.

The majority of SMEs in Algeria during the last four years was operating in the service sector, constituting approximately 700 000 enterprises from the total number of SMEs in the country. Moreover, a large number of enterprises were engaging in artisan activities and construction industries, exceeding 300 000 enterprises and 200 000 enterprises, respectively.

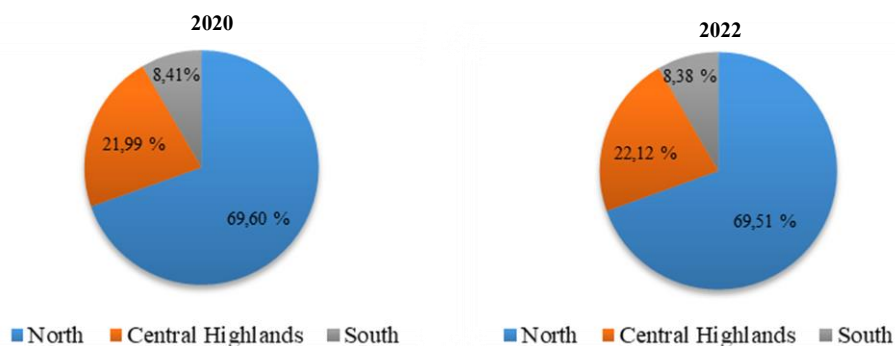
3.2.3 The Evollution of SMEs by Region

This section represents the evolution of SMEs' populations based on the region in which they operate; the figure below shows how the distribution of SMEs in 2022 compared to 2020.

Fig 4. The Evolution of SMEs by Region (2020 – 2022)

Source: Statistical Information Bulletin, (N°38, N°42), Ministry of Industry, Algeria.

Algerian SMEs are concentrated in the north compared to the central and the southern regions. This is respectively for the year of 2020 as well as the year of 2022. In 2022, the number of SMEs located in the north reached 945 113 enterprise, meanwhile, the number of SMEs in the central reached 745300 enterprise while those located in the south amounted to only 113905 enterprise. For further clarification, the following figure shows Density Rate of SMEs by Region in 2020 and 2022.

Fig 5. The Density Rate of SMEs by Region (2020 – 2022)

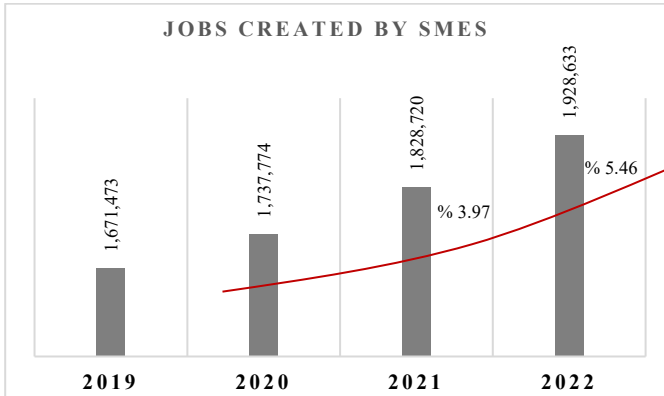
Source: Statistical Information Bulletin, (N°38, N°42), Ministry of Industry, Algeria.

The graph highlights a clear regional disparity in the distribution of SMEs across Algeria. In both 2020 and 2022, the northern region consistently hosted the highest concentration, reaching 945,113 enterprises in 2022. The central region followed with 745,300 SMEs, while the southern region lagged significantly behind with only 113,905. This uneven distribution reflects disparities in infrastructure, market access, and investment climate, underscoring the need for targeted regional policies to stimulate SME development in less-served southern areas.

3.2.4 The Contribution of SMEs to Employment

SMEs are of considerable importance in the Algerian economy in terms of job creation and employment promotion. The following figure shows the number of the jobs created by SMEs from 2020 to the end of 2022.

According to the above data, in Algeria SMEs have been drives of job creation. In the four last years, from 2019 to 2022, the SMEs sector had the highest employment rate. On average, SMEs contributed to creating more than 1 million job positions. In 2022, the number of jobs created by SMEs amounted to approximately 2 million positions, in particular with an increase rate of 5.46%, which indicates the continuous progression of this sector where SMEs absorb a large proportion of workplace.

Fig 6. The Contribution of SMEs to Employment

Source: Statistical Information Bulletin, (N°36, N°38, N°40, N°42), Ministry of Industry, Algeria.

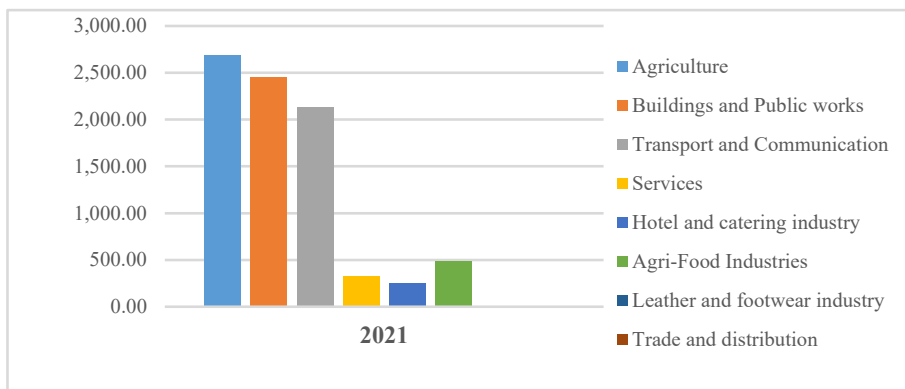
In the period of 2020-2022, the number of created SMEs is more than four times greater than the number of deathbed SMEs. Which is a good and positive indicator regarding employment. In terms of employment, SMEs' creation and mortality play a crucial role. While the creation of new enterprises is accompanied by the creation of new jobs, the mortality of created enterprises is also accompanied by the destruction of jobs.

3.2.5 The Contribution of SMEs to to the Added Value in Algeria (2019-2023)

In 2021, the private sector remains dominant in terms of value-added with an amount of 10,334.13 billion DZD, which represents a share of 87.87%.

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Fig 7. The Contribution of SMEs to the Added Value by the end of 2021 (BDZD)



Source: Statistical Information Bulletin, (N°36, N°38, N°40, N°42), Ministry of Industry, Algeria.

The figure above clearly illustrates the dominant role of the private sector in value-added generation, contributing 10,334.13 billion DZD in 2021, equivalent to 87.87% of total SME value-added.

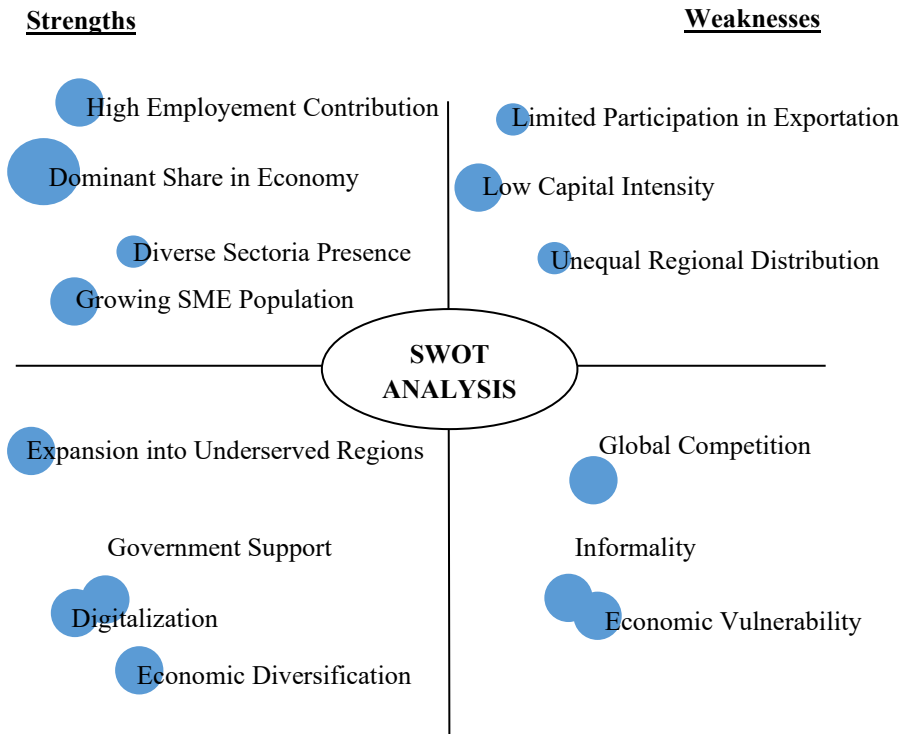
This strong performance underscores the central role private SMEs play in driving economic income, productivity, and growth in Algeria, while also highlighting the relatively limited contribution of public SMEs.

3.3 SWOT Analysis of SMEs in Algeria

This paper uses SWOT analysis in order to assess the role of SMEs in the Algerian economy by identifying their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Based on the above data ?

the following figure shows the main strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of SMEs in the economy.

Fig8. SWOT Analysis of SMEs in Algeria



Opportunities

Source: by researcher based on presented data.

The above analysis provides a comprehensive understanding of how SMEs contribute to the economic development in Algeria and what limits its role in economy development.

Strengths

- Strong Market Dominance: 99.98% of SMEs are privately owned, showing the importance of this sector to the Algerian economy.

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- Government Support: multiple national programs by ANADE, CNAC, ANGEM, FGAR provide financing, guarantees, and advisory services to SMEs.
- Growing population: an increasing growth in SMEs' population, with over 1.35 million enterprises by the end of 2022 and an annual increase of 5.71%.
- Job Creation: SMEs programs collectively created over 2 million jobs, highlighting their socio-economic impact.

Weaknesses

- Unequal Regional Distribution : SMEs are more concentrated in the north, with fewer in central and southern regions, reflecting regional disparities.
- Low Capital Intensity: a modest average of funding per enterprise, especially from ANGEM, which may limit the scalability and innovation capabilities of SMEs.
- Limited Participation in Export Market: SMEs' contribution to exportation is limited.

Opportunities

- Expansion into underserved regions: targeted support with attractive advantages in the central and southern areas.
- Economic diversification: benefiting from targeted funding, policy support and cluster synergies.
- Export and Internationalization: some SMEs are already exporting, indicating an existing potential for global market integration.

Threats

- Access to finance gaps: while many SMEs receive support, the average financing per enterprise is low to support growth and modernization.
- Economic vulnerability: SMEs are sensitive to macroeconomic shocks, inflation, and currency instability.
- Informality: a large informal sector may undermine the competitiveness of registered SMEs.

4. Results and Discussion

This paper gives an overview on the actual situation of SMEs in Algeria. Moreover, based on the above analysis revealed several results where SMEs are positively contributing to the economy development in terms of employment, diversification and value added creation. This paper also complements many research findings about SMEs in Algeria. According to Bilal MECHAALI and Salah MAHREZ (2019) stated that the Economic diversification is necessary for future economic growth, and this in turn is necessary for the growth of employment and others. SMEs are the pillars to the government's diversification drive. In the same context Sonia Saouachi and Meriem bouchoucha (2024) mentioned that small and medium enterprises in Algeria are more concentrated in the services sector comparing to other sectors, especially agriculture, which can negatively impact the national economy, particularly in terms of reducing food dependency and achieving food security. According to the research findings of Arnouz abdelatif and Hamdani mahieddine (2024) the SME sector in Algeria witnessed significant growth in terms of density.

5. Conclusion

Small and medium-sized enterprises are playing a pivotal role in the Algerian economy, serving as a key driver for economic development, economic diversification, and a significant contributor to employment generation. However, they face critical challenges such as weak export participation. Where government and all stakeholders must work together to strengthen SMEs' ability to compete locally and internationally. A multi stakeholder approach involving; policymakers, SMEs' owners, and manager is essential to enhance the contribution of SMEs to the Algerian economy based on the following practical suggestions:

- Encourage SMEs to invest more in productive sectors;
- Help SMEs to get integrated into internationalization and exports;
- Encourage public-private partnerships;
- Encourage SMEs' partnerships with foreign distributors;
- Improve transport and supply chain;
- Promote clustering and partnership among SMEs to foster knowledge sharing and resource optimization;
- Encourage SMEs to invest in R&D and innovation;
- Encourage SMEs' partnerships with universities and research centers;
- Train SMEs' managers on digital transformation and technology adoption

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